

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claim 21.

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**1. – 20. (Canceled)**

**21. (Currently amended)** A method of preventing lymphocyte activation which comprises the steps of:

obtaining isolated HIV Viral Protein R (Vpr) [[Vpr]] protein; and  
contacting lymphocyte cells with an amount of said Vpr protein effective to prevent activation.

**22. (Previously presented)** The method of claim 21 wherein said lymphocyte cells are T cells.

**23. (Previously presented)** The method of claim 21 wherein said lymphocyte cells are B cells.

**24.– 31. (Canceled)**

**32. (Previously presented)** A method of inhibiting lymphocyte activation which comprises the steps of:

obtaining isolated Vpr protein; and  
contacting lymphocyte cells with an amount of said Vpr protein effective to inhibit activation;

wherein cytokine production and secretion by immunoglobulin activation of lymphocyte cells is inhibited.

33. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 32 wherein said lymphocyte cells are T cells.
34. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 32 wherein said lymphocyte cells are B cells.